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U.S. Weighs Expulsion of Red Newsman

The United States is considering expulsion of a Soviet correspondent as retaliation for last week's ouster of Stanley Cloud, a reporter in Time magazine's Moscow bureau.

"We consider this action by the Soviets unfortunate and a barrier to the free flow of information," State Department spokesman Carl E. Bartch said yesterday. "We're considering what course of action would, best protect the interests of U.S. correspondents in Moscow."

In May 1969, the Nixon administration broke precedent and ordered the expulsion of Victor Kopytin, a correspondent in the Washington bureau of the Soviet news agency Tass, after Moscow ordered out Anatole Shub of the Washington Post. Both men have been replaced; there now are 26 Soviet correspondents in New York, while Cloud's departure has left 24 Americans in Moscow.

State Department officials said no decision had been made yet on whether to follow the Shub-Kopytin example or to return to the earlier pattern of quietly denying a visa renewal to the next Russian reporter who takes home leave. One factor in the decision may be whether Time is permitted to replace Cloud, who had arrived last October as a newly allowed second man in its Moscow bureau.

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